

Message Text

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SUBJ: NORDIC PRIME MINISTERS AGREE ON COORDINATION OF MEASURES
TO COMBAT ECONOMIC CRISIS

REF: STOCKHOLM 0262

1. AT THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE NORDIC COUNCIL IN STOCKHOLM ON JANUARY 20 (REFTEL), THE NORDIC PRIME MINISTERS AGREED TO COORDINGATE WHATEVER MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO COMBAT THE PREVAILING ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE PURPOSE OF SUCH A COORDINATION WAS SAID TO BE THAT NO NORDIC NATION SHOULD MAKE ANY MOVES THAT WOULD CAUSE INJURY TO ANY OTHER NORDIC NATION. APPREHENSIONS WERE VOICED AT THE STOCKHOLM MEETING THAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS NOW FACING THE NORDIC COUNTRIES MIGHT WELL BE REGARDED AS AN INDICATION OF THE FAILURE OF NORDIC COOPERATION. ACCORDINGLY, SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER THORBJORN FALLDIN PARTICULARLY STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE NORDIC NATIONS TO INTENSIFY THEIR
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COLLABORATION AND TO TAKE MEASURES JOINTLY.

2. ALTHOUGH THE NORDIC PRIME MINISTERS DEEPLY REGRETTEED THAT THE NORDIC ECONOMIC UNION (NORDEK) NEVER BECAME A REALITY, THEY AGREED THAT COLLABORATION AMONG THE NORDIC NATIONS, NONETHELESS, WAS HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION. MINISTER FALLDIN EMPHASIZED THAT IN THE PREVAILING CRISIS SITUATION WITH

ATTENDING DANGERS OF RISING UNEMPLOYMENT, ONE CANNOT MERELY PASSIVELY ALLOW DEVELOPMENTS TO TAKE THEIR COURSE. HE CONCEDED THAT SOME OF THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELD OF SHIPBUILDING HAVE HAD AN IMPACT IN NORWAY. THE SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE NORDIC NATIONS SHOULD INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON WAYS AND MEANS OF COPING WITH INCREASING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION WITHOUT CAUSING DETRIMENT TO ANOTHER NORDIC COUNTRY.

3. NORWAY'S PRIME MINISTER ODVAR NORDLI REITERATED EARLIER PROPOSALS THAT A JOINT NORDIC INVESTIGATION BE CONDUCTED INTO WHAT MOVES THE NORDIC NATIONS SHOULD TAKE IN AN EFFORT TO COPE WITH THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. IN THIS CONNECTION, DANISH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN ADVOCATED THAT A NORDIC CONFERENCE BE HELD, WITH PARTICIPANTS COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS, EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS, AND MANAGEMENT. HE RECOMMENDED THAT SUCH A TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE BE CONVENED THIS AUTUMN. THE CONSENSUS OF THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATES WAS THAT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS IS FAR DEEPER THAN PREVIOUS ONES. THEREFORE, A THOROUGH AND IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE PREVAILING PROBLEMS IS WARRANTED.

4. FORMER NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER TRYGVE BRATTELI STRESSED THAT THE JOINT NORDIC EFFORTS MUST, IN THE FIRST PLACE, AIM AT DIAGNOSING THE ECONOMIC ILLNESS WHICH CURRENTLY BESETTING THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD. WHEN THAT DIAGNOSIS HAS BEEN MADE, THE RIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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REMEDY MUST BE FOUND. MINISTER BRATTELI DID NOT THINK THE SAME MEDICINE WOULD BE THE RIGHT ONE FOR ALL THE NORDIC COUNTRIES.

5. THE NORDIC PRIME MINISTERS TOUCHED UPON ENERGY ISSUES ONLY VERY BRIEFLY. QUERIED AS TO WHETHER THE OTHER NORDIC NATIONS WERE INTERESTED IN SWEDEN'S MAINTAINING ITS TECHNOLOGY IN THE SPHERE OF NUCLEAR POWER, FINLAND'S PRIME MINISTER KALELVI SORSA REPLIED: "WE HAVE ONLY RECENTLY BEGUN TO AVAIL OURSELVES OF SWEDEN'S NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY, AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO SO."
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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